

MORNING SERMON OUTLINE
God's Kingdom Growing in the World

Matthew 13:24-43

The parables we read this morning have a thread running through them – a common theme that was completely new to Jesus disciples, though Christians since Pentecost have understood it.

So the application to them, as they heard them for the first time, was different from the application to us. Two destinies are set before us. Which one do you desire? Which one will be yours?

1. The Kingdom of Heaven must go through a period of growth before the end.

The Parables of the Wheat & the Tares (vv.24-30,36-43), of the Mustard Seed (v.31, 32 – also in Mark 4:30-32 & Luke 13:18,19), and of the Leaven (also in Luke 13:20,21). These are images of gradual, even secret, growth.

So in different ways, each of these envisions a period of growth.

Our Lord does not say how long that will be (see 24:36, Acts 1:6-8).

But the growth of the Lord's crop is brought about as a result of the sowing of the seed of the Word, vs.19) producing "good seed."

The Jews generally, John the Baptist (11:2,3, 3:10-12), & certainly Jesus' disciples expected the Messiah when He came to bring the final Judgment on the world & the final exaltation of God's people.

Other, more shocking news, is in store for them soon – that the Messiah must be rejected, suffer, die, & rise again – that is, at His FIRST coming He must bear the judgment God's people deserve, for them.

2. During this period (in which WE live), the "sons of the Kingdom" and the "sons of the evil one" will live side by side in the world.

As the Gospel is preached to the nations (Great Commission, 28:18-20), "good seed" / "sons of the Kingdom" come to faith in Christ & grow in number,

At the same time, the devil is busy, and "sons of the evil one" grow up and live mixed in with the sons of the Kingdom.

The Master ("Lord" v.28, Christ the Son of Man) commands His servants to let both co-mingle in the world (the field is the world, v.38) - until the time of separation (Judgment).

A historic misapplication of this instruction from the Lord.

Our task in this age.

3. At the End of the Age the Son of Man will harvest His field – some destined for the fires of hell, others to shine like the sun with Him.

At "the end of the age" (same words, 28:20) –

Christ will send His angels to gather the harvest of mankind – with two destinations (25:31-34,46): heaven or hell.

Christian believers: be patient until the end (James 5:7,8); it will come!

Everyone: Be certain you are trusting in & living for Christ; be ready!